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Nicaragua to Name Revolution Heroine As Delegate to U.N.

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MANAGUA, Nicaragua, Jan. 17 — The Nicaraguan Government plans to name a heroine of the Sandinista revolution, Deputy Foreign Minister Nora Astorga, as its chief delegate to the United Nations.

Miss Astorga has represented Nicaragua at several United Nations sessions in New York and elsewhere. One of her principal responsibilities at the Foreign Ministry has been to work with Nicaragua's mission to the United Nations.

She was nominated as Ambassador to the United States in 1984, but the Reagan Administration, exercising a rarely used right, rejected her nomination, saying that her guerrilla past rendered her undesirable in Washington.

An authoritative Government source said today that Miss Astorga's posting would be officially announced in about a month. He said the Government had not decided on a new post for the incumbent chief delegate, Javier Chamorro Mora.

"It's a question of a normal change," the official said in an interview. "Javier has been in the job for several years, and Nora is well prepared for it."

Miss Astorga, 41 years old, has recently undertaken diplomatic assignments ranging from touring Africa to representing Nicaragua at meetings of the four-nation Contadora group, which is seeking to find a formula for peace in Central America.

World Headlines in 1978

Though she fought with the Sandinista Front in the revolution that toppled the Government of Anastasio Somoza Debayle in 1979, the incident for which Miss Astorga is best known was the spectacular guerrilla operation in 1978 in which she lured a top Government general into her bedroom, where he was killed by hidden assailants.

The victim, Gen. Reynaldo Pérez Vega, was the second in command of the National Guard under Mr. Somoza. American and Nicaraguan officials agree that the general also worked for the Central Intelligence Agency.

Miss Astorga, who had secretly been active in the Sandinista cause since 1969, had aroused the romantic interest of General Pérez. She agreed to join a Sandinista plot to attract him away from his bodyguards.

On March 8, 1978, she was in her bedroom with General Pérez when three Sandinistas burst from hiding places and killed him.

Miss Astorga has said that the object of the plot was to kidnap General Pérez and exchange him for imprisoned Sandinistas. She said the plan went awry when the general resisted violently.